



**Awareness Alert: For Recreational and Commercial  
Diving Community  
Date: October 3, 2003**

**ATTN: Recreational/Commercial Divers and General Diving Community**

**ASSISTING WITH HOMELAND SECURITY AWARENESS:**

The United States Coast Guard has been aggressively monitoring and assessing information with other Federal, state and local agencies on potential terrorist threats in the United States (US) to protect our homeland. Public assistance is integral to our overall awareness of dive activity throughout the country and we ask the public to report anything that looks suspicious or out of place within our ports, waterways and harbors. As a matter of good business practices, dive shop owners are encouraged to verify the diving qualifications of persons wishing to make purchases related to recreational or commercial diving. Specifically we ask that you report any suspicious activities or persons. The following are examples of such activity:

- Unusually large purchases of dive equipment by a single individual
- Large purchases of specialized equipment (i.e. underwater photography equipment)
- Inquiries about specific details about critical infrastructure, e.g. bridges, piers, cruise ships as well as possible dive entry points around such structures.
- Purchases by individuals without qualifications
- Any other suspicious activity
- Urgency for immediate qualification on equipment

If you see anything that may be suspicious, please report the activity to the local United States Coast Guard, Captain of the Port or National Response Center at **(800) 424-8802**.

**MAINTAINING AWARENESS OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND REPORTING YOUR DIVE PLAN:**

**We suggest that you include the following items in your dive plan to increase your awareness in the area in which you are diving to help prevent yourself from being mistaken as a suspicious person:**

1. Contact your local Coast Guard unit and make yourself aware of any current security zones or restricted areas before entering the water.
2. If diving near a designated security zone advise the nearest Coast Guard station or facility of your diving intentions.
3. Be certain not to dive in designated security zones or off limits areas without authorization and proper notification of Coast Guard Security/Law Enforcement personnel.